

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# ENGLISH NATION.

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Tuesday, May 7. 1706.

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I Have, I think, sufficiently prov'd, That the timely and suitable Succours sent to Spain, have effectually and very happily clear'd up the Reputation of the Publick Conduct, and blasted the Hopes of those, who expected, from some Defect in our Preparations, and ill Success thereupon, an opportunity to leave some Scar upon the Ministry, and foment Jealousie of Partial Proceedings in favour of one part of the Service, and in Prejudice of the other; and 'tis evident the Effort, for which this was Calculated, is a Division of the Whig Party, to bring them to Clash with one another, and thereby open the Door to a warring Legion of High-Church Lyons, to break in and tear them to pieces.

I can no more wonder that some Gentlemen are Angry at the Recapitulating these

things, and bringing to Mind all the Steps of the Party, since their Memorial began the new System of Slander upon the Ministry.

Nor can the World chuse but Smile at a certain Gentleman's Arguing, who, with intolerable Sophisms instead of Arguings, will Affirm to the World, that the Memorial was Wrote by the Whigs, another shortest-way-Irony; that Mr. Stephens means the Whigs, when he says, he gave Bar too much to some, that gave Ill turns to all Publick Affairs, and the like; that the Whigs are the Complainers, and that the Author of this Writes against the present Ministry.

Let these Gentlemen go on, the Argument is too Ridiculous to need an Answer; the shortest-way had this to distinguish it from the Memorial, that if it did Personate the Party, it father'd nothing on them, but what

what they had made their own, and what THEIR OWN WORKS are still to be Quoted for; *nothing* but what, till they discover'd the Author, THEY OWN'D and approv'd; but the *Memorial* Asserts, what the Church it Personates, ABHORS, and the People it speaks for, has ever declar'd against; *the one*, makes them speak what really they had said; this what they never either said or meant; this therefore must be the Genuine Act of the Party, and no Irony.

This however is gain'd by the endeavour of the Party, to throw it on the Whigs, *that they appear asham'd of the Fact*, like the Papists throwing the Burning of London upon the Dissenters, because they dare not own it themselves, and I am glad to see they are asham'd of this Book; as for its Authors, when they can show me one Whig that had any hand in it, or one Whig that ever said he approv'd of it, *something may look like it*; but let them rest ealie, they will never make the World believe it, they will but be laugh'd at, and make their own Case the worse for the Endeavour.

The Author of the REHEARSAL, *who is the mover of this empty Sham*, would do well to tell us, what Evidence he has to charge it upon any Whig, and let us see if he can make Proof of it — which he will do, when he can make good another most Villainous Forgery upon the Author of the *Shortest way*, Rehearsal, N°. . . ., *That he would have made any Submission, to have been excus'd the Pillory*, which till he can tell the World, what Submissions they were he offer'd to make, must stand for one of the most Scandalous Slanders, any Man that pretends to Truth, can be Guilty of.

Just thus is the poor Author Treated by Dr. Brown, Charging him twice in one Paper, with Words Quoted from the *Review*, which neither Literally or Constructively are to be found there — And let no Man wonder, that the Author of this takes no more Notice of what these People say; for when Men have quitted their Honesty as Authors, and neither Charge with Truth, or Answer with Modesty, what

Man of Common Sense would meddle with them?

*Let them go on with their Slanders on me, 'tis not worth Notice*; but the Scandalous Whispers against the Government, and the ill Turns they give the Publick Affairs, must be detected; and to *that* I proceed.

And now we come to the Affair of Portugal; Sir John Leake receiv'd some stop from the Forts in the *Lajo* for want of Orders, &c. and presently this was thrown in the way of the Innocent and Ignorant People, and *we were betray'd by the Portuguese*, the King of Portugal, or the Duke De Cavadal was *Frenchify'd*; and Brib'd with French Money, and we lost the Spanish Galeons, and gaining of Cadiz, and I know not what.

I shall not spend time here to tell you, that Sir John Leake has an Expedition on his hands, which not the Taking the Galeons, no nor Cadiz it self, ought to Divert, *but of that presently*; but let us examine this *Frenchifying* of the Portuguese — The Embargo being laid, and Orders not given, a thing which might very often happen in a Nation, where Management is none of the best, did put 24 Hours stop to Sir John Leake; *this we Grant*.

And yet we see since, these Brib'd Portuguese make unusual Efforts, and unlook'd for speed, fit out, furnish and dispatch their Army for an Expedition, *that is like to bid fair for a new Turn in Spain*, and which we have no Cause to doubt are enter'd the Capital of the Spanish Monarchy before this Paper is Wrote, and are now Consulting new Measures, in the Royal Palaces of Madrid.

If the Portuguese have taken the French Money, they have most horribly Cheated them, they have *bit the Biter*, and sharp'd them of their Money, for they have certainly given the greatest Blow of the whole Spanish War.

And here I must have leave a little to run the Parallel, and suppose we were now at Paris; I cannot but fancy I hear the French Whigs, if there are any such *Crea- tures*.



sure there, Curfing the Politicks of the Spanish Affairs, and all their Preposterous Management of things there.

A Peer of this Duke of Berwick, says one, he a Marshal of France! He a General of an Army! Send him to School again: Did ever General of an Army, put Ten Battalions of Foot into an open Untenable Town, that had neither Bastion nor Counterfcarp, that could not force an Enemy to break Ground, or require the Formalities of a Siege? This was meer Sacrificing his Men, and delivering them up to the Enemy at Discretion. Ay, says another, and to let a Magazine of Provisions and Clothes for the poor Naked Soldiers, all lie in a Defenceless Town, which he knew must fall into the Enemies hand? Send him to the Bussile, says a third, he must certainly be False, and has been Brib'd by English Money, he would never have acted so Ridiculous a Part else, by which he has weaken'd his own hands, and given Madrid up to the Enemy.

I appeal to all the World, whether 'tis not more likely by these Consequences, that the Duke of Berwick was Brib'd by my Lord Galway, to Sell his Infantry and his Magazines to him, by leaving them in a Town that could not be defended, than the King of Portugal, &c. be Brib'd by the French, by committing a Mistake, which was rectifi'd in 24 Hours.

Let us go on to the King of Spain, and observe a little the most Incongruous Management of his Affairs, to leave his Frontiers quite Naked, neither Fortifi'd Towns nor Army in the Field, nothing to guard his Capital City, his Queen, or the Royal Pallaces of his Kingdom, but leave them Expos'd to an Enemy, that however Contemprible in himself, was far from being so, as back'd by a strong body of English and Dutch Troops, and those under the Command, of a vigilant and Experienc'd a General, as most in Europe; I mean my Lord Galway, who without Flattering, is allow'd even by the French themselves, to be as capable of great Actions, and as well qualify'd to Reduce Spain, as any General

in Europe; and had he an Army suited to such a General, would soon make an End of that War; but, even as it is, ought to have been regarded as an Army of Hares with a Lyon to their General, is as formidable as an Army of Lyons with a Hare to their General.

Now what must we say, if we were Frenchmen, to this March of the King of Spain? Three things I think are to be concluded from it.

1. Either it was meer Presumption, upon the Cowardice and Divisions of the Portuguese, whom the Spaniards had learn'd to Contemn for their most Scandalous Retreat last Year from Badajos, and if this be the Case, 'tis very Unsoldier-like, whose true Maxim is, ever since Julius Caesar, Never to Despise an Enemy.

2. Or they having suppos'd they had bought the Portuguese off, depending upon their Bargain.

3. Or they were Infatuated, and the hour of King Philip's demise, as a King, being come, he was Blinded by his Inevitable Fate.

4. Or convinc'd that he was not able to hold it, he took this opportunity to quit a Kingdom he could not keep, and his Capital where he knew he could not long be safe, to take Protection in the French Army; and either have a fair Cast for his Crown in the Siege of Barcelona, or a safe Retreat, and a good Pretence for it, upon any Miscarriage of the Marshal de Thesse, whose Experience and Conduct would Screen the Reputation of the King, and make his Retreat into France the more justifiable.

And thus we see there are Follies of all sides, and Miscarriages may be found or made, by the Malecontent Heads on either side; the Actions of Great Men are Scann'd and Debated by all Parties, and every body turns them as they stand affected to, the Actors, either to a Good or Evil Construction.

I have not room to proceed to our Affairs on the other side; I confess things do not look so well every where as in Spain; Italy and the Upper Rhine threaten us with

Threats